

Richmond Dispatch.

SUNDAY.....JANUARY 2, 1881.

ZERO AND BELOW.

Talk About the Weather by the Oldest Inhabitant and Many Other Folks.

RIVERS AND HARBORS CLOSING TO NAVIGATION—ALMOST UNPARALLELED SEVERITY OF THE WEATHER IN VIRGINIA—THE THERMOMETER RANGING FROM TEN TO TWENTY-FOUR DEGREES BELOW ZERO—REPORTS FROM ALL SECTIONS OF THE STATE, AND FROM MANY STATES—LAST BY TELEGRAPH.

(New York Herald, yesterday.)

The great thermometric depression which has just passed over the country will probably leave with any cold spell noted in our western chronicles. It began its march in the Northwest, where on Tuesday last there was a fall to 42 degrees below zero at St. Vincent and 44 degrees below zero at Fort Garry. When Lieutenant Schwatka reported encountering temperatures of 40 degrees below zero in his Arctic Journey some geographers thought there must have been an error. Professor Nordenkjold, during the whole winter in which his vessel was frozen up on the northern coast of Siberia, only once experienced such great cold, the minimum temperature on board the Vega from October to May being 45.5 degrees below zero, and then "the coldest winds," her commander says, "came from the southwest to west." It is doubtful whether the Jeannette, with the American Arctic expedition, at any period during last winter experienced near Wrangel Land so low a temperature as marked the cold wave of Tuesday as it then broke over Dakota Territory.

The remarkable feature of this immense wave is that its volume sufficed to cover the wide country east of the Rocky Mountains with temperatures lower, perhaps, than any recorded since 1853 and 1856. Its central path seems to have been projected in a line southwardly from Dakota to Florida, as the minimum temperatures were lower in Tennessee, Georgia, and along this line generally than even in places of higher latitude on either side of it. It is now entering the mild, moist atmosphere of the West Indian and Gulf regions, where it will reinforce the high barometric pressure now prevailing near the tropics, and we may therefore expect its reactionary effect will be to hasten the return of the warm southerly winds over the Gulf States and the Lower Mississippi Valley.

Baltimore and the Bay.

(Baltimore Sun, yesterday.)

The range of the thermometer in Baltimore yesterday was as follows, commencing at the time when people generally begin to move about the streets: 7 A. M., 2 degrees above zero; 11 A. M., 8 above; 2 P. M., 13 above; 1 P. M., 14 above, from which point it fell off to 6 degrees at 9 o'clock, 3 at 11, and at midnight it was 1 degree below zero, and still dropping. The wind was very mild all day, and tempered the cold in a measure. The thermometer in front of the Sun office was closely studied all day. All over the country, according to the reports received at the Signal-Service office, the temperature has risen, with but few exceptions. At Albany it was at 3 P. M., 12; Alpena, Mich., 9; Boston, 16; Buffalo, 5; Burlington, 12; Calais, 24; Cheyenne, 38; Clinton, 17; Cincinnati, 16; Cleveland, 7; Detroit, 8; Duluth, 13; Eastport, Mo., 10; Erie, 10; Escanaba, Mich., 3; Grand Haven, Mich., 15; Keokuk, Iowa, 22; La Crosse, Wis., 12; Louisville, 18; Madison, Wis., 14; Milwaukee, 12; New London, Conn., 16; New Orleans, 34; New York, 12; Oswego, 15; Philadelphia, 13; Pittsburg, 10; Portland, Me., 20; Rochester, 9; Sandusky, 10; St. Louis, 19; St. Paul, 9; Toledo, 12.

Reports from down the bay state that the ice is heavy, far as Sandy Point. The ice-boats Marland and Latrobe went down the bay early, and Captain Griggs, of the former, reports that he found the ice not as thick as it was yesterday.

The Returns from Staunton.

(Correspondence of the Richmond Dispatch.)

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